

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 2 and 6-12 without prejudice.

Please amend Claims 1, 3-5 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for selecting Duroc pigs with ~~thin~~ thinner backfat thickness, which comprises the step of identifying a polymorphism ~~characterized by~~ at nucleotide position 393 of the 5'-flanking region of porcine *HSP70.2* gene, wherein the presence of the genotype of T/T at said position 393 indicates the pig with ~~thin~~ thinner backfat thickness.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A The method of Claim 1, which further ~~comprise~~ comprises the step of identifying a polymorphism ~~characterized by~~ at nucleotide position 250 of the 5'-flanking region of porcine *HSP70.2* gene, wherein the presence of the genotype AT/AT at positions 250 and 393 indicates the pig with ~~thin~~ thinner backfat thickness.

4. (Currently Amended) A The method of Claim 3, which further comprises the step of identifying a polymorphism ~~characterized by~~ at nucleotide position 44 of the 5'-flanking region of porcine *HSP70.2* gene, wherein the presence of the genotype CAT/CAT at position 44, 250 and 393 indicates the pig with ~~thin~~ thinner backfat thickness.

5. (Currently Amended) A The method of Claim 4, which further comprises the step of identifying a polymorphism ~~characterized~~

by at nucleotide position 232 and a polymorphism at nucleotide position 345 of the 5'-flanking region of porcine *HSP70.2* gene, wherein the presence of the genotype CCATT/CCATT at position 44, 232, 250, 345 and 393 indicates the pig with ~~thin~~ thinner backfat thickness.

6-12. (Canceled)